

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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At Prayer Meeting

There were only two or three of us
 Who came to the place of prayer—
 Came in the teeth of a driving storm—
 But for that we did not care,
 Since after our psalms of praise had risen
 And our earnest prayers were said,
 The Master Himself was present there,
 And gave us the living bread.

We knew His look in our leader's face,
 So wrapt and glad and free;
 We felt His touch when our heads we bowed,
 We heard His, "Come unto me!"
 Nobody saw Him lift the latch
 And none unbarred the door,
 But peace was His token to every heart,
 And how could we ask for more?

Each of us felt the load of wrong
 From the weary shoulders fall;
 Each of us dropped the load of care
 And the grief that was like a pall;
 And over our spirits a blessing calm
 Swept in from the Jasper Sea,
 And strength was ours for joy and strife
 In the days that were thence to be.

It was only a handful gathered in
 To the little place of prayer,
 Outside was struggle and pain and sin,
 But the Lord Himself was there;
 He came to redeem the pledge He gave
 Wherever His loved ones be,
 To stand Himself in the midst of them,
 Though they count but two or three.

And forth we fared in the bitter rain
 And our hearts had grown so warm,
 It seemed like the pelting of summer flowers
 And not the crash of a storm.

" 'Twas a time of the dearest privilege
 At the Lord's right hand," we said,
 And we thought how Jesus Himself had come
 To feed us the living bread.

—Selected

DIVISIONS

We cannot imagine for a moment that envying, strife, and division among Christians can be pleasing to God, or in any way advance the growth of His kingdom. Yet we see many professed followers of Christ and zealous workers in His cause, who try to excuse sectarianism and the multitudinous divisions of the great army of Christian workers on the earth. Such people say, "We can't all see alike and God never expects us to"; and for this reason it is well that the body of Christ should be divided, and part should say, "I am of Paul," others, I am of "Apollos"; some crying one thing and some another until in this great Babel of confusion, strife, envying, and bitterness, it is little wonder that skepticism and infidelity are so prevalent. It is little wonder that the lame should be turned out of the way and that many honest souls should remain unsaved because they cannot for the life of them decide which of the multitude of so-called churches (each claiming to be the true Church of God) to unite with.

It is becoming a common opinion that one might as well remain unsaved as to remain outside of one of the many wrangling striving sects flattering itself with the idea that it is the Church, each trying to excel others, especially in the matter of numbers. They do not hesitate to number their Israel and boastfully tell of the great numbers who belong to "our church." Oh, how can any honest, true follower of Christ who loves His cause and who works for God rather than sects, imagine for one moment that God can look down from His pure and holy heaven, where we all hope to meet, with any degree of approval upon these shameful divisions, these bitter, envious, vain glorious parties that too often bring disgrace upon His name by claiming to be His Church?

What is the Church of God? Many people have confused and imperfect notions as to what the Church of God really is and how she operates. Some people imagine that the building in which Christians meet is the church, and though such places are called by that name, they are only the place for the Church itself to meet in. Many think the Church is composed of those who belong to their denominations, and whose names are recorded in their church books.

Is not the true Church composed of any and all who love the Lord alone; who have the knowledge of their acceptance with God? We have God's Word for it that their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Neither can their number be told by man, but the Lord knoweth them that are His. There is no danger, but the life and light that flows from the great Sun of Righteousness will reach the humblest and most obscure member of the cherished body of Christ, which must necessarily be one.

How can we read that touching, beautiful prayer of Jesus just previous to His death, and imagine that anything else but perfect unity (which nothing short of perfect holiness can bring about) can be pleasing to God? When Jesus prayed: "And for their sakes I sanctify myself that they also might be sanctified by the truth: that they all may be one: as, Thou, Father art in me and I in Thee that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me." He means what He said, that all His followers might be made perfect in one.

Is not this one of the most glorious truths of the Bible—the perfect unity of Christ with God and of all who love Him, with Him? "I in them and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one." Oh, how sweet it is when all barriers are removed and every separating wall levelled, and all who are Christ's and known of Him and of each other.

I often wonder how those who are zealous of their sects and so jealous of its interest that they hardly fellowship Christians of another denomination, expect to do so if they are so fortunate as at last to reach the Home beyond the grave. I can't believe they will hear such names as Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and such like there. If we remain faithful unto the end and enjoy the priceless privilege of fellowship with the saints of light in heaven, I don't believe the question will ever be asked—"To what church do you belong?" But we may recall with regret the sorrow and mischief accomplished by the enemy of souls in causing the divisions and separation of Christians here on earth.

—Hettie Anderson

The Sufferings of Christ in the Flesh

To many readers and expositors of the Scriptures, usual concept declares that Christ was a man void of physical beauty and comeliness of features in His growing up. Jesus was a man of normal appearance. Born of incorruptible seed, His body was as the first Adam before he sinned—sinless and holy, and void of carnal instinct which all men are born with (Psa. 51:5; 139:15, 16). The children whom He loved and blessed looked upon Him as a kind man of comely features, and not as described in Isa. 52:14. We must conclude then, that the depths of agony, hurt, buffetings, and brutal treatment received by mutilating blows from cruel instruments made his form marred more than any man. The sacrificial knives laid upon the tables by the priests to slay and dissect the lambs

and goats are a figure of the cruel instruments of death used on the Lamb of God.

Let us take notice of the lamentable expressions of Christ's sufferings in the flesh: He was wounded, He was afflicted, smitten of God, bruised for our iniquities, He bare the sins of many; He took upon Him our infirmities and sicknesses—who His own self bore our sins in His own body. This reveals to us the state of a body condemned to die. We see here where our own carnal disease of sin was laid upon Him.

The general decay of "the body of sin" breathes corruption. Its awful stench is that of a dead body lingering without burial and rotting with worms of decay. Such is contained in Adam's evil nature of the which all are endowed with from birth. It is a deceitful, beguiling nature whose passions for sin cleaves to our words and to our actions if we have not experienced a gentle birth and become the gentleness of Christ. It is a malady of human weakness, a contagion of Adam's transgression, a sickening disease, and the source of all evil. It is a bitter root springing up and defiling many who fail to cast it all on Christ for cure and perfection. That carnal spark, Adamic flint, flying off the handle, carnal retort, ugly attitude, and mean disposition are the very state of sinful depravity; it was just this nature and state of mind that caused the brutal treatment of the innocent Lamb to suffer in the flesh and die for human guilt. He who truly knew no sin was made the body of sin—the just suffering for the unjust. That is what made Him the figure of a horrible look as He hung mutilated and covered with blood. Here is told the deepest passions of His suffering, humility, and forlornment—One who was sinless and holy. The chastisement He bore when He gave His back to the smiters was to heal us of our own sinful disease and to accomplish for us our peace with God through our Lord Jesus. The organ of His soul was turned into mourning, and the very organism of His body sweat as it were great drops of blood, as with strong cryings and tears He became willing to drink the bitter cup of suffering and death. For this we love Him who set an example of suffering in the flesh that we might cease from sin.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

GREAT FAITH

The link that binds us to God is faith. The larger the God we know, the larger will be our faith. The secret of power in our lives is to know God and expect great things from Him. "With God all things are possible," and "All things are possible to him that believeth." The difference between faith and works is just this: In the case of faith, God does it; in the case of works, we try to do it ourselves; and the difference is measured simply by the distance between the infinite and the finite, the Almighty God and a helpless worm.

—A. B. Simpson

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By Grace and Faith

Thank the Lord we are saved by grace through faith, not of ourselves, but it is a gift of God. This is the greatest gift ever bestowed on mankind (Eph. 2:8). All of the millions of dollars of wealth in this world do not compare with this **great gift** of salvation. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26. Yet, many today are selling their souls for such a meager amount of this world's goods. Oh, Lord, help mankind today to be awakened to the bartering of their souls, and what it will mean to be lost in eternity—in a place of burning where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:43-48).

We have the privilege to receive an **abundance** of grace to reign in this life over all the powers of the enemy. (*Reign* means to have power and authority to rule over with victory.) (Rom. 5:17) Praise our God for ever and ever!

Saved by **grace** through **faith**—"and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. "Let him ask in faith, **nothing** wavering." James 1:6. We walk (or live) by faith and not by sight (or feelings), as feelings can and do fluctuate from day to day according to conditions, etc., but **unwavering** faith is "steady as we go," ever increasing in the things of God with power over all the powers of the enemy (Luke 10:19). I am so very thankful to know, however, that feelings and shouts of victory do come along the way as we draw near Him with a true heart in full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22). Praise God!

Oh, souls, be awakened to flee all unrighteousness; follow after righteousness, and lay hold on eternal life as never before. When you read this, your time will be shorter than ever before. 1 Cor. 7:29, says, ". . . the time is short." In Psalms 89:47, David said, "Remember how short **my** time is." Let us be like David in this text and make it a personal application—**my** time. —Sis. LaVern Manuel

Mother's Prayer

In the year 1861, in the month of February, a terrible storm raged along the coast of England. There were eighty-one vessels wrecked in one bay (Hartlepool). While the storm was at its height, the **Rising Sun**, a stout brig, struck on Longrear Rocks, a reef extending a mile from one side of the bay. She sank, leaving only her two top masts above the foaming waves.

The life-boats were away, rescuing wrecked crews. The only means of saving the men clinging to the swaying masts was the rocket apparatus. Before it could be adjusted, one mast fell. Just as the rocket bearing the life-line went booming out of the mortar, the other mast toppled over. Sadly, the rocket men began to draw in their line, when suddenly they felt that something was attached to it, and in a few minutes hauled out on the beach the apparently lifeless body of a sailor boy. Trained and tender hands worked over him and in a short time he became conscious.

With amazement, he gazed around on the crowd of kind and sympathizing friends. He looked up into the weather-beaten face of an old fisherman near him, and asked: "Where am I?" "Thou art safe, my lad." "Where is the Captain?" "Drowned, my lad." "The mate then?" "He's drowned, too." "The crew?" "They are all lost, my lad; thou art the only one saved."

The boy stood overwhelmed for a few minutes; and then raised both hands, and cried in a loud voice, "My mother has been praying for me!", and then he dropped on his knees on the wet sand, and hid his sobbing face in his hands. Hundreds heard that day this tribute to a mother's love, and to God's faithfulness in listening to a mother's prayers. —**The Secret of Prayer** by E. E. Byrum

IN HONOR OF THE FAITHFUL WIVES AND MOTHERS OF THE LAND

A wife is a blessing God has given to man,
To help and to cheer him through life's short span.
She is the queen of the home, whether wealthy or poor;
God hath given her the realm that none can ignore.

Although to her husband she bows her head,
She is ever alert to prepare him his bread.
Her hands are not idle from morn' 'till night;
She girdeth her loins and setteth things right.

Her husband returns from the field or the wood;
He beholdeth his wife, and says she is good.
As a blessing from God she shareth his care,
As they bow in reverence to the Father in prayer.

As bone of his bone she lies near his heart,
And God hath decreed that they never shall part:
Until He in His wise, omnipotent plan,
Calls one or the other to that far distant land.

As flesh of his flesh, their hearts are entwined
As Christ to His Church in her beauty sublime—
A symbol of heaven so graciously pure,
Her lovely, sweet song doth gently allure.

All others forsaken, a man loves his wife
And cherisheth her dearly as his own precious life.
A charm of all charms as before him she stands;
She is truly a blessing God hath given to man.

A wife that is honest and faithful and just,
In such a great woman her husband can trust.
She clotheth herself with honor and strength,
And trusts in the Lord for wisdom at length.

When a wife is a mother by heavenly grant,
Her children doth flourish like a green olive plant.
They calleth her blessed as she looks to their ways,
Her husband ariseth and giveth her praise.

Now a wife is of far more value, I am told,
Than rubies or diamonds, or silver and gold.
Truly God was good and wise in His plan
By giving a wife as a help meet to man.

—Ulysses Phillips

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Randall D. Flynn, assisted by Wayne Murphey and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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Editorials



With thankful hearts for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us, we greet you once again in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We trust that you also have a testimony of the Lord's goodness to you, that you are encouraged and blessed in your Christian pilgrimage, and determined to see the end with victory. As John wrote to Gaius in 3 John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Dear reader, if for some reason you cannot testify of the saving grace of God and have His peace abiding in your heart, I urge you to forsake all and follow after the Lord; seek His mercy and forgiveness that you may find rest for your soul. Time is short, death is sure, and life is uncertain. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28, 29.

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Once again we behold the beauties of nature as we see new life budding forth in the trees, grass, etc. What beauty and marvel it is to see things being "resurrected" to an active state of life. But think just a moment—we can enjoy this season only once a year. Spiritually, however, we can have a springtime every day! Each day we can feel the blessing of God afresh in our hearts; each day we can rejoice in the salvation of our souls; each day our lives can be budding and blossoming into deeds of love and kindness to our fellowman. "... but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." 2 Cor. 4:16.

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Bro. Wayne Murphey and his family were privileged to be with the saints at Gale, Illinois, for a few services over the Easter weekend, and on Monday and Tuesday nights following. We trust the saints there were much encouraged to earnestly contend for truth and right, and that sinners were convicted of their need of salvation.

On April 9, Bro. Murphey and this writer traveled to Jena, La., where meeting was held Sunday, April 10, through Wed. night, April 13. We were thankful to be able to meet with the saints there once again, and it was a pleasure for me to be able to go to Loranger and visit with my mother, other relatives, and saints in that area.

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Let's not forget to pray for the many revival and camp meetings that are scheduled for the near future. Pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit will be greatly felt in each service and will convict sinners of their lost condition, and that the saints will be edified and strengthened in the things of God. Pray for the protection of the saints as many miles will no doubt be traveled to the different meetings.

—Randall Flynn

Editorials, continued—

"I have just read the paper and I have received much good from the articles by Mart Samons, C. C. Carver, the poem by Elmer Esterline, and also the "Question and Answer Column" by Ostis Wilson. These were so precious to my soul today; however, every article in the paper blessed my soul. . . .

"I keep the papers and read them from cover to cover. In this day there is so little of the real Word of God. The things spoken or written by the so-called churches that are masked by denominational names are just the spewing forth of such homogenized articles that it makes me shudder to know that souls are being deceived. God has opened the windows of my soul to so many things that I stand in awe of His holiness and the great mercies given to each of us."

We are glad for each one who receives a blessing by reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. If you have friends and relatives who are not subscribers to this paper, take a moment and send in a subscription for them. The charge for the *Faith and Victory* is a very reasonable sum of only \$1.00 for three years. Do all you can to help spread the gospel to others.

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May 8, is a day that is to be nationally observed as Mother's Day. A mother fills a very significant position, and if supported by a godly husband, she helps to create a home where the children feel secure and loved. Such homes are becoming scarce. Many women do not wish to fill the place that God designed for them, but have joined their husbands in secular pursuits, and neglect the care and training of their children's lives. The result of such neglect is seen as we view a restless generation of youth that are insecure and are seeking something to fill the void in their lives.

Not enough can be said to commend the woman who fills her proper place. However, these Scriptures offer some words of praise. "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones." Prov. 12:4. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Prov. 31:10. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30. —Wayne Murphey

PRINTING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Faith Publishing House has for sale the following items of printing equipment: 1 ATF Chief model DE offset printing press, sheet size 17 1/2 x 22 1/2; 1 ATF Little Giant flatbed letter press, sheet size 12 x 18; and 1 Elliot stencil addressing machine. Equipment is in good mechanical condition. If interested, contact Bro. Wayne Murphey, c/o Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, or phone 405-282-1479.

—o—
"No God—no peace,
Know God—know peace."

—Sel. by Effie Miller

Camp Meeting Dates for 1983

Following are the Church of God camp meeting dates for 1983, and a more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues:

Oklahoma State Camp Meeting at Guthrie, Ok.

May 27—June 5

Jefferson, Oregon—June 10—19

Tulsa, Okla.—June 10—19

Oakland, Calif.—June 17—26

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 20—26

Duncannon, Pa.—June 24—July 1

Greenbank, W. Va.—July 1—10

Fresno, Calif.—July 1—10

Akron, Ohio—July 8—17

National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 22—31

Myrtle, Missouri—August 1—7

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 5—14

Durham, N. C.—August 15-21

Boley, Okla.—August 19—28

California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, Ca.
August 26-Sept. 4

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OKLAHOMA CAMP MEETING AT GUTHRIE, OK.

The Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 27 through June 5, 1983, at the chapel located on the corner of N. Sixth and West Warner Streets, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this 49th annual camp meeting to be held on these grounds. Provision will be made to care for all who come. Dining hall and dormitories are located on the grounds. Expenses will be met by freewill offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting, for the salvation of souls, the sanctification of believers, and the divine healing of bodies.

Any contributions should be sent directly to the treasurer, Sis. Frances Deforth, Rt. 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee at 411 N. 11th, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone 405-282-2421. The phone number at the chapel is 405-282-5499.

—Editor

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JEFFERSON, ORE., CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon, is scheduled to be held on the camp ground near Jefferson from June 10 to 19, 1983. There will be three regular services daily. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services. The meeting will be supported on the freewill offering basis, and the meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds.

Bring sleeping bags and folding canvas cots, as well as bedding. Please let Bro. Wilson know in advance of your coming so arrangements can be made for your lodging.

Directions to campground: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right

on Marion Road for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, then turn left on Sheldon Road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 6505 N. E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321, phone (503) 928-7223. The chapel phone is (503) 327-9916.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA CAMP MEETING

Camp meeting at Tulsa, Ok., will convene, Lord willing, on Friday, June 10, and continue through June 19, 1983. We are looking to God to bless in all the services by saving and sanctifying souls, healing bodies, and encouraging the saints. We desire the prayers of all who have a burden for the meeting.

We extend to all a hearty welcome. We are looking to the Lord to send workers and message bearers of His choice.

For more information you may contact Brother Norman Simpson at 1338 E. 8th St., Tulsa, Ok. 74106, phone area code 918-583-2096, or Sis. Eva Hardman at 2232 Norfolk, Tulsa, Ok. 74106, phone 918-583-2929. The chapel is located at 1102 E. Pine Place, and the phone number at the chapel is 918-584-8438.

—Maple Littlejohn

CAMP MEETING SCHEDULED AT CHILLIWACK, B. C., CANADA

The Church of God will hold, Lord willing, a camp meeting at Charis Camp beginning with the first service at 7:30 p. m., Monday, June 20, and continuing with three services daily through June 26, 1983. Daily services are scheduled at 10:30 a. m., 2:30 p. m., and 7:30 p. m. Special interests such as outreach, young people, and Bible teaching will be at 2:30. We are praying the Holy Spirit to compel able ministers and teachers who have a real soul burden and vision of the restoration of Bible truths to attend, and to screen those who don't.

Camp Charis is a rented facility, therefore daily rental charges are set at the following rate:

1. \$2.00 per person per day for cabins.
2. \$4.50 per day for two people with trailer hook-up—any additional person \$1.50.
3. Tents—\$1.50 per person per day.
4. $\frac{1}{3}$ discount for children ages 4-9, and under age 4 free.

We encourage all who can to make reservations, but will try to provide and make you comfortable at any rate.

We extend a special welcome to all of Canada, Seattle, Wash., and all hungry souls. You will find this to be a place of prayer and inspiration to your soul.

For more information you may contact Bro. Ron Walter at 45386 Wellington Ave., Chilliwack, B. C., Canada V2P 2E9, phone 604-792-5201, or Bro. Paul Sorrell at 6407 Mt. Baker Hwy., Deming, Wa. 98244, phone 206-599-2014.

In Memorial

Bro. Zedore Francisco was born March 23, 1892, in Evergreen, Louisiana. He was the son of Paul and Octavia Francisco. The family moved to Boley, Ok. while he was in his teens. He grew up in this vicinity and there married Gertrude Dyer in 1916. Sister Gertrude and two of their thirteen children preceded him in death.

Bro. Francisco was a devout Catholic until the Lord showed him that confessed sins were still on his record as long as he continued in them. When he heard Church of God ministers preaching that one could be saved **from** sin, he accepted this and was saved in the Church of God in 1920. In a few years the Lord called him to the ministry. Since that time, he has given unselfishly of his time, talents, resources, and influence to spread the gospel. He moved to Bakersfield, Calif., in 1936, and helped to establish the congregation there, and later in Stockton, Ca., with his wife, Sis. Gertrude Francisco, assisting in his ministry. He also served as pastor in San Diego, Ca., for a number of years. His presence was a comfort to many in time of trouble and sorrow.

After his devoted wife, Sis. Gertrude Francisco, died in 1958, he married Sis. Mattie Ligons of Boley, Ok. He was active in the ministry until his illness two weeks prior to his death.

Bro. Francisco often remarked, "There is no better inheritance for parents to leave than a Godly foundation on which the children can build." He left that foundation when he passed away on Feb. 17, 1983, in Bakersfield, Ca., at the age of 90 years, 10 months, and 25 days. Those remaining to build on his foundation are his wife, Sis. Mattie Francisco of Bakersfield, Ca.; seven sons, Clement of Detroit, Mich., Otis of Boley, Ok., Manuel of Pacoima, Ca., Nathaniel of Inglewood, Ca., Felix of Rialto, Ca., Mackey of Austin, Tex., and Charles of Porterville, Ca.; two stepsons, Willie Jr. Celestine, Grayson, Ok., and Elvert Celestine of Tulsa, Ok.; four daughters, Georgia Francisco of Altadena, Ca., Robena Montgomery, Lucille Dillard, and Lucy Francisco, all of Bakersfield, Ca.; three stepdaughters, Nettie Mae Celestine and Elizabeth Moore of Tulsa, Ok., and Wilma Jean Jackson of Okla. City, Ok.; 77 grandchildren, 60 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Services were conducted in Bakersfield, Ca., with Bros. E. J. Trotter and Woodrow Warren officiating with the assistance of others.

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Glenn Erle Forbes was born July 5, 1919, at Clovis, N. Mex., and departed this life March 11, 1983, at Burbank, California at the age of 63 years.

He was the son of Erle E. and Vera M. Forbes, who were well known among the saints over a large part of the country. Glenn was reared under Church of God teaching, and that was what he believed in all his life.

Glenn was one among the nicest men I have known. He was courteous, considerate, and interested in people—all people. It was a big part of his life to serve people and many, many times he would be found helping other people in one way or another without any thought of remuneration. His mother conducted children's Bible classes in different government housing projects. For several years he and his brother, Ivan, alternated Sundays driving the Sunday School bus gathering up those children for Sunday School. Glenn spent many of his Saturdays servicing and repairing the bus to keep it in running order. He continued doing this even after his mother moved from Pacoima, and when the bus wore out and would not run any more, he used his car and gathered up all he could, continuing right up to the Sunday before he died.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, and one son, Darryl, both of Burbank, Calif.; two brothers, Ivan of Sylmar, Calif., and Warner of Foley, Ala.; one sister, Sylvia Busbee of Guthrie, Okla.; two grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of God chapel on the saints' camp ground in Pacoima, Calif., by Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, with singing by a group of singers from the church. Interment was in Grand View Cemetery, Glendale, Calif.

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Leo S. Wilkins, was born March 31, 1899, in Boon, Mich. He departed this life April 12, 1983, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Ok., at the age of 84 years, and 12 days.

He was married to A. Eva Lewis on Aug. 10, 1921. To this union four children were born. His wife passed away June 28, 1981. Two sons, Jerry and Donald, were killed in an accident Jan. 26, 1953. His daughter, Aneita Corteway, departed from this life on Mar. 19, 1983.

He leaves to mourn his passing one son, Ralph, of Guthrie, Ok.; 13 grandchildren, and one great-grandson; one brother, Clayton, of Ortonville, Mich.; many neices, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Smith at the Church of God chapel at Shawnee, Ok., and burial was at Bethel Cemetery.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

REPORT OF MEXICO CAMP MEETING AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings in the Name which is above all names, our precious Savior, Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us in the camp meeting in Ojos Negros. He wonderfully blessed all the ministers and workers who labored in the meeting. We appreciated His anointing in the services. Thank you for your prayers and support of the meeting.

Though this was their rainy season, the Lord cleared the weather the day before camp meeting

began. We didn't see a cloud all week. As our group left Sunday p. m., after the last service, we saw the clouds coming in. How we do thank the Lord for this another blessing.

The workers all see the need of branching out. Bro. Pedro Rosas has given a lot on which to build a chapel in Valle de la Trinidad. Plans are being made to build it. There is an urgent need for workers there, especially this summer. The Escobars are looking for a lot in Chapultepec, also, and are planning, Lord willing, to start building a chapel there. A sister who was saved in Ojos Negros several years ago, is very zealous for the Lord. She, her husband, and children have been giving out literature and talking to people about the Lord, and say that there is definite interest there. Please help us pray for all that are involved in the construction of these chapels, and that the work will prosper and reach precious souls for God.

We thank the Lord that the literature being mailed to Mexico, Central America, and South America is going through, and souls are being born into the Kingdom. We desire your continued prayers. We want to be faithful to God and honest souls.

Yours in His service,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico

Yours in His service,

—Sis. Opal Kelly

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TENT REVIVAL AT COFFEYVILLE, KANS.

We have applied for a permit to set up a tent and everything looks favorable. Lord willing, we will have a tent meeting beginning May 13, and continuing through May 22, or as long as the Lord leads. The location of the tent will be just south of the chapel at Willow and Eldridge. Services will be at 7:30 p. m. each evening. We are praying that we will be able to reach honest souls and that they will receive the truth. We covet your prayers that God will bless His Word to awaken souls from the dead. We welcome anyone to come and help us in this meeting.

Anyone desiring more information may contact us by phone at area code 316-251-1108, or write to the undersigned at 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kans. 67337

Yours for the truth, —Bro. & Sis. Ralph Beisly

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REQUEST FOR BOOK

A reader is requesting to either borrow or purchase a copy of Charles E. Brown's book *When the Trumpet Sounded*. Should you have a copy available, please contact this office stating price or if you would be willing to submit it for loan.

—Editor

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NOTICE

In last month's *Faith and Victory* we had a notice of gospel songs that were available on cassette tapes. Most of these songs were recorded by the Sorrell quartet. These tapes are handled exclusively by Bro. Harlan Sorrell. The tapes sell for \$1.25 each,

plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. **Send all of your orders to:** Songs of the Evening Light, c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 272, Myrtle, Mo. 65778. **Make all checks payable to Harlan Sorrell.**

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WORK DAYS ON NATIONAL CAMP GROUND

It is time to start planning for the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, (Neosho) Mo. We are scheduling work days every Saturday in July until the meeting begins on July 22.

Much work is required to prepare for the meeting. One of the projects is the installation of new electric service for the new cabins being built on the east side of the camp ground.

Volunteer labor is depended upon for the work done on the camp ground. We invite all that are interested in the camp meeting to come to the work days on July 2, 9, and 16. We greatly appreciate how the saints have cooperated on these work days in past years.

For further information you may contact:

—Bro. James R. Wall, General Manager
5825 E. 64th St., Tulsa, Ok. 74136

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WORK DAY SCHEDULED AT GUTHRIE, OKLA.

Attention Okla. residents: A work day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 14, for repairs and maintenance work needed to be done on the buildings on the State Camp Ground. Some of the needed work is the reroofing of the men's dorm, painting exterior trim on the chapel, fixing drain gutters, etc. The sisters of the Guthrie congregation are requested to bring food for the noonday meal. Hope to see you there!

—Randall Flynn

Prayer Requests



Illinois—"Remember us in prayer. The cataract on my right eye is no better. I thank the Lord for my good left eye. I have accepted my affliction as from the Lord to help me in spiritual things and to trust Him more."

—Don. L. Ferguson

Tenn.—"I'm also afflicted with several minor ailments for which I need prayer. I have real bad circulation . . . and high blood pressure. Husband has several different ailments also. I desire the well being of my soul more than of my body."

—Sis. Mary Rogers

Okla.—Remember Sis. Lottie Porter in prayer as she has not been very well in recent months.

La.—Sis. Katherine Harmon is in need of prayer for the healing of an affliction on her body.

Okla.—Sis. Clara Wall has suffered a broken ankle. Pray that it will mend speedily.

La.—Bro. Louis Kimble has an afflicted arm and can hardly lift anything. Also, Bro. Harold Purvis has been troubled for several months with a severe skin problem that causes much discomfort.

Pa.—Sis. Ruth Godshall requests prayer for her brother who had a stroke and is not saved. She also requests prayer for other members of her family.

Calif.—"Bro. Gene [Harmon] is having swelling in his ankles and feet. Please request prayer for him."

—Sis. Loretta Harmon

Ind.—Sis. Mary J. Rogers desires prayer for arthritis and some other requests.

Canada—Through answered prayer, Sis. Betty Friesen stood the move from Ontario to Chilliwack, B. C., Canada, reasonably well. However, since her arrival in Chilliwack, her condition has worsened considerably. Pray earnestly for her deliverance, and also for the dear ones who are providing care for her.

Let us continue to hold up in prayer those who have been on our prayer list for a number of months. Among those are Bro. Murphy Allen, Sis. Eva Lou Gaines, Sis. Olive Gettersson and parents, Sis. Evelyn McCoy, and others. Also, we received several unspoken requests. The Lord knows the need of each one and is well able to supply. Let us approach His throne in humbleness of heart, with thanksgiving and faith that He will answer our prayer. (Phil. 4:6).

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Philippines (Mar. 21)—Dear Brother Hammond: Greetings of love, joy, peace, and hope in the precious name of Jesus. We are so happy and thankful again to receive your very kind letter which is full of comforting words of love and encouragement. Thank you so much also for the kind help you sent us for the gospel work in the Philippines. We praise and thank the Lord for you dear saints, and for your great burden for every lost soul in the world. . . . We don't know how many days are left for each of us to live on earth; may the Lord help us to spend our time and give our best to help every soul to go to heaven.

The girls are preparing their schedules for the Vacation Bible School. We have fine young people added to the church who are so willing to spend their vacation from school to help in the Bible school. One young sister will be graduating from her high school with the highest honor of San Jose City High School this year, and a young brother will be graduating from his agriculture engineering course with high honors. Thank God for these young saints. Please pray for them that they will become tools of spiritual blessings to others. . . .

Thank the Lord the true Church of God is moving forward in the Philippines. . . . Many blind eyes are beginning to be opened to see the light of the truth. We have many schedules for Bible studies. . . .

We are still longing and praying for a church building in San Jose wherein we can meet together when saints around will come for fellowship. We received the recorded tapes you sent us. We are so inspired while hearing of the wonderful worship

services in the U. S. A., although some words are hard for us to understand. How I wish some of us in the Philippines will be able to witness personally the services and fellowship you have there. . . .

We are praying for God's rich blessings to each one of you dear saints abroad, both materially and spiritually, so that you can continue peacefully and joyfully your good works for Christ's cause before He returns to take us home to Heaven.

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Matias Tangunan and family

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REPORT FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

Nigeria—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Thank you very much for your encouraging letter and the enclosures were noted with overflowing gratitude.

We, in Tombia, are always grateful to the saints in the U. S. A. for their valuable prayers, encouragement, and help for many years. There is quite a change in the economic, political, and moral condition of all countries in the world, and I am sure that we will be forced to face more trial and temptation in this year of 1983 than ever before.

Yes, R. O. Williams from the state school at Abalama met us there when we went there to proclaim the gospel. We prayed for him and God healed him of his sickness. Now we are praying for his salvation. Please help pray for him.

Last week one of our members, Emmanuel Dokubo, came home. He is working in a government post at Lagos. He has some other members who assembled with him on every Sunday to study the doctrine of the Church of God, and they all have accepted it. . . .

We must present Christ to the world. To do that we must have the doctrine of Christ, and most important, the life of Christ.

We are praying for you and all. Continue your prayers for us.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

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REPORT FROM MISSION IN GHANA

Ghana (Mar. 21)—Dear Bro. Hammond, and all the workers at the Print Shop: Greetings to you in Jesus' name. God is so good to us! I want to thank you for your loving letters and magazines [*Faith and Victory* papers]. I do very much appreciate them and so do others I give them to.

So much is happening quickly now. One can see God's Word opening up before our eyes in daily events. One wonders how much longer he will have freedom to do things we now can do such as reading the Word openly. "The night cometh when no man can work." We are to work while it is yet day.

We are very thankful that He permitted us to travel all the way to Afrancho. It was very tiresome to get there and we were all worn out when we got there. The whole congregation walked under the

scorching sun. The people of Afrancho are so responsive, and there were about 700 people in attendance the following evening while different brethren gave the gospel about seeking salvation. We were so glad that the Lord opened the way for about 12 people who gave their souls to the Lord. We prayed for an old man who is a drug addict and had stomach ulcers. The hospital discharged him being unable to help him any further, but he was still in pain and trouble. When we prayed he felt fine, and could carry on his work the following morning.

It is very expensive to undertake a crusade to win souls here, and I am so glad that Sis. Keiser was here to see things herself. But God has promised to supply all my needs. I don't know what I would do without Him. He surely has provided everything I am looking for. Recently my wife Christiana was employed as a teacher. Praise the Lord for answering prayers!

We held an early dawn broadcast about 4:00 a. m. the following morning with the hired loudspeakers and amplifier (very expensive indeed). The sound traveled about three miles in the early morning. . . . I am so thankful to the Lord that it never fell on deaf ears. Two people were converted the following morning to the glory of God. I have been moving to and from Afrancho to see the new establishment there. . .

Recently I received a letter from Bro. Danny Layne about his coming to see things over here with me. He feels a great burden for traveling down here on a missionary field and here, too, is my prayer that we all pray for the Holy Spirit to open the way. I thank him for his nice letter and prayers. . . .

Christian love,

—Bro. Jim Akwasi

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REPORT OF CONDITIONS IN GHANA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Flynn, co-workers, and all the saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus.

The return to Ghana of approximately two million Ghanians from Nigeria, with only what they had on their backs, and the fire which burned up many acres of crops (their food), has been a great trial of faith to the dear saints there. Bro. Jim Akwasi writes that they have been living on tapioca, which is a root they use like potatoes.

I have written to them believing that their local relief agencies would be a quicker source of food for them than through our agencies here; CARE is not operating in Ghana.

The cost of sending food in such an amount by air would be prohibitive, and to send food by boat would take at least six months; also, there is the possibility that it would never reach them because of thievery or wind up on the black market. Just do whatever God tells you to do. Money doesn't seem to be their problem in regard to food—there just isn't any food to buy. I have written them asking how the money should be handled that has come in for this purpose. I have sent them some money and am just waiting to hear from them. They are in a hard place,

but our God has a way of working in hard places to show Himself strong in behalf of his trusting children. I felt impressed to pray for the rains to come so they could plant their crops again.

Bro. Jim's letter to me dated Mar. 22, was more encouraging. The rains have started slowly, and they were beginning to plant. Thank God for answered prayer! I have sent 2 packages of garden seeds (over 2 lbs.) by air. . . . Do pray with me that they will get there, and that they will adjust to their climate and soil. I will send more regularly if they get them.

Another work has been started in Afrancho, with 26 members. . . . Money is coming in for their needs of a chapel and mission house. We do thank God for the way He is working.

Yours for souls all over the world,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

Rt. 6 Box 8B, Shawnee, Ok. 74801

From the Mail Box. . .

Ala.—My dear Christian friends: I just want to say I love my Lord with all of my heart and I'm striving in every way I can to please Him. I'd rather feel that my precious Lord is pleased with the life I'm living in this world than anything else. Satan can't put enough of anything in front of my eyes that will make me turn back on my precious Lord. We have to watch that sly, old fox.

Thank God my Jesus Christ is alive forevermore. I know without a doubt that He is for He lives in my heart every day.

With the help of God I'll make it through. I may have to go through a lot of trials and tribulations, but if I keep holding on, Jesus, the Son of the true and living God, will see me through.

Christian love, —May Bell Dunaway

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Wash.—Dear brothers and sisters at the Lord's Print Shop: We think of you often and pray for you that God will supply your needs in every way. We do appreciate so much being able to order good wholesome reading material. We are working with many souls here, so we need more books, etc. We are living by faith one day at a time. The Lord has been faithful. . . .

God bless you! Pray with us that our faith will be increased. We are trusting God to help us.

—Paul Sorrell

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Canada—Dear workers in the Lord's Print Shop: Our wife's dear mother was still with us last Easter, and now our loved ones are with the Lord. Yes, " . . . Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Yes, the Lord answered prayer in our behalf. The Lord is so good to us, and it is a great privilege to trust Him. However, since Jan. 14 of this year, I have been laid off from my employment. I've worked for

the last three weeks in the afternoon in bookkeeping. Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for the *Faith and Victory*, also for the *Lamp of Youth*—they are a great blessing. In one testimony it reads: "The people of the world don't read their Bible much: they're reading our lives. . . ." Yes, the way we live our everyday lives is also telling our testimony. . . .

In Jesus love,

—Wilfred Froese

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—Dear saints everywhere: I greet you in the dear name of Jesus. I trust all is well there. I have been wanting to send in my testimony, but it is hard for me to write.

I had arthritis in my right arm for several months. I could hardly use it, but God has healed it so I can almost raise it straight up. I thank Him so much! Then for several months my left arm was almost useless. I couldn't comb my hair and had to have help to do nearly everything; I could hardly move it. Now it is healed, too. I can't reach quite as high, but have been able to comb my hair for several months. How I do praise God! He said He would be a present help in time of need.

I am not too well in other ways, but I am looking to God for help. I am happy to have my case in the hands of my heavenly Father. Don't forget to pray for me, saints. I have missed going to meeting there both winter and summer.

May God bless all is my prayer.

Christian love,

—Sis. Goldie Knapp

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Virginia—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and every deed of kindness shown in my behalf during my long illness.

The Lord has really blessed me. Of course, I still have the blockage, but my mind is clear now, and I am home and doing very well. Thank the Lord. Please pray the Lord to undertake in behalf of the blockage. I know all things are possible with the Lord.

May God bless each of you is my prayer.

—Sis. Lillian Bohannon

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Mo.—Greetings to all the workers at Faith Pub. House: I love the saints everywhere, and I have a lot to be thankful for.

I was in a car wreck with my car on April 1st. It tore the back of my car up pretty bad. I was crossing an intersection of a four-lane highway less than a mile from home. I had waited for seven cars and a transport, then looked and I did not see a car. As I entered the median from the inside lane, I was hit by another car at the rear on the driver's side. I shut the switch off immediately after I heard the impact. I was spun around in the median and headed back in the direction from which I had come. There were two sacks of groceries in the back seat and two cartons of eggs in the front seat. It never spilled anything or

even moved the eggs in the seat. I never got a big bump or anything. It seemed I was riding on air. The Lord did do that for me, and I surely thank and praise Him for His love and mercy.

After going back to town and reporting the accident to the insurance agent I came home. The police had forgotten to have me sign a paper, so he and Clayton were here waiting for me. When the police told me I was to be in court at 10:00 a. m., on April 13, it struck me really hard. I couldn't breathe or talk. Clayton told me to sit down and said, "You are not ticking right. It was not my heart but was my breathing. The longer it lasted the more complicated my breathing became. . . . Myrtle came and spent the night with me. I have been having severe headaches, but thank the Lord, I got up this morning feeling like myself and have no trouble today.

The Lord has been very good to me, and has come to my rescue so many times. I am 81 years old, and surely do appreciate the goodness of my children and the mercy extended to me by the Lord. I want to make heaven my home. I try very hard to live as I feel the Lord would want me to. Neighbors came in wanting me to go to the doctor or hospital, but I would not go back on the Lord who has supplied my needs and taken care of my body.

No, a doctor is not the answer for me. I only look to the Lord for my body and for spiritual food. It is enough for me. Pray for me that I will always be faithful to the end. —Sis. Marie Miller

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Miss.—Dear ones: To the glory of God I want to tell of some of the divine healings that God has done for me since I got saved in 1915. He healed me of a bad cancer and also of bad nose bleedings. I was so near blindness long years ago that I would have to take a magnifying glass to read about three verses in the Bible. Two doctors say I have bad scars on my eyes where God healed me. The one here that saw it said a few years ago that I had cataracts, and wanted me to come back often. I did not go back so soon, but when I did go, he said that my eyes were in good shape.

The Lord healed me of bad lung trouble, and also of some mighty bad spells of some kind when it would hurt me to eat or drink. Once a black widow spider (I think) bit me. The place got to be about the size of a quarter, and was eating deep into my knee. My body turned red nearly all over. Two ministers prayed for me; the redness soon left, and the place on my knee healed in about a month.

I had the red measles, and when I was very low, I heard Papa say that he thought I had waited too late to ask for prayer, but he prayed for me and I soon began feeling more normal.

Once we had a little calf that was sick; it looked like it was about to take its last breath. I prayed for it and God healed it.

While Mama was sick, one day I had so much pain that I did not feel like doing anything. I went to the barn and talked to God about it. I told Him that He had done so much for me, and that He could take

all the pain away if He saw fit. He answered my prayer and took all of the pain away before I got back to the house.

God has blessed me in many other ways for which I praise Him very much.

With love,

—Dorothy Bridges

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Illinois—Dear ones in Christ: Received your March issue of the *Faith and Victory*. You don't know how much I enjoy reading it.

I work at a Bible College in Rock Island, Ill. I have accepted divine healing since reading your material last summer. I've testified at the church where we attend about believing in divine healing, and went as far to say, "I know you people don't believe in it like I'm talking about," as this is a denominational church. They go to doctors and yet say God heals them. I thought I might lose my job, but I'm still there.

I've experienced such wonderful healing since that time that I want to share these blessings with each of you. I cut my hand and one night the pain was so great that I said, "Dear Jesus, if I can't stand this pain, how am I going to stand it if anything really serious happens?" I had no more than said this and the pain was gone. I sat up in bed—I just could not believe it. Praise the Lord!

On one of my eyelids I had a large mole that was long and it seemed to be getting larger. It wasn't painful or anything, but was a nuisance. I told my husband that if it came off, God was going to have to do it. A week later, while talking on the phone, I put my hand on the mole and there was a little blood. I went in the bath room and couldn't believe my eyes—it was gone! I had a shouting spell all over the house. When I went to work I couldn't wait to tell everybody what God had done. Praise His name!

While talking with a young boy yesterday, we got on the subject of divine healing. He said that I was Christian Science. I said, "Oh, no I'm not; I believe in divine healing, and Christian Science says that you're not sick at all." . . .

I don't know how long my job will last because we just don't accept their ways. I'm ready to go or stay; whatever the Lord would have us do. We have attended church very little this school year as we get tired of hearing things that the Bible doesn't teach. We do long for fellowship with the Church of God saints, but will wait until God says it is enough. . . .

In His service,

—Sis. Ferguson

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Canada—Greetings to the saints of God: Surely God has been and still is a living God, working and moving in our lives up here in Chilliwack, B. C. The Lord has worked some wonderful things in our lives and we want to testify and glorify His name.

We have trusted in the living God to give us permanent status in Canada. When we first applied for residence, immigration authorities tried to discourage and bluff us back into the U. S. A., but, praise God, we received the promise and staggered

not. In January, 1983, we became a permanent resident of Canada. Our next necessity was employment, but we staggered not at the promise and received it. The unemployment rate is very high and the economy is very low, but God has supplied us with full time employment.

We also thank the Lord for helping us through our home birth and giving Betty such sweet victory over pain and fear. Surely we can stand still and see the salvation of God. Glory to the name of Jesus Christ! He has been the best friend to us in so many ways; we just want to magnify His sweet, holy name.

We also wish to thank all of the saints of God for their support, prayers, letters, gifts, and phone calls. We love God's people with a special love; all of you are dear to us. Continue to remember the work of God in Canada.

Yours in Christ,

—Mark Snell

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Tenn.—Dear Saints: Well, praise the Lord this morning for victory! I know I must have been filled with the Holy Spirit the very next day after writing for you to pray for me to be sanctified. However, there were others already praying for me, and I'm sure you were, too, even though you had not had time to receive my letter. I want to thank each one who has ever prayed for me. I love every one.

Praise God for such a sweet and glorious experience! I just thank God for His sweet Spirit that fills my being, comforts me, and abides within continually. The devil came the very next day trying to make me doubt, but, praise be to God, I told him I could not and never would doubt my experience; I had Someone dwelling within a lot more powerful than he. The devil knew I meant business and hasn't been back since that day. Oh yes, I know he is bound to attack me again as it is his business to try to get every soul he can to go to that awful place of darkness and torment. However, with God's help I mean to be on guard and resist him each time he attacks. As the Scripture says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." James 4:7, 8. God is so precious to me; I cannot praise Him enough. This is real!

Love to everyone,

—Sis. Mary Rogers

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Mo.—Dear saints at Guthrie: We send greetings of love to you, and to all saints everywhere in Jesus' blessed name.

Just a short note in way of a testimony. This finds me encouraged and pressing on. Many among us of late have come to the end of earth's short walk, leaving a testimony and good example for those of us who are soon to follow. Knowing this, we surely desire to keep humble and stay awake spiritually, lest when He cometh He should find us sleeping. May we all keep filled with the love of God and be at peace among ourselves, without spot and blameless. Otherwise, we cannot truly be expecting the new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness which the apostle Peter speaks of in 2 Peter 3:13. As is our sowing so our reaping will be.

May we all follow the one, good Shepherd, standing firm and true, being gentle and meek. Jesus said, "I am meek and lowly in heart." Jesus means more than all else to me. May His blessings rest upon you all.

Christian love,

—Austin McMillian

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Canada—Dear saints: It seems a proper time to write and testify of God's goodness. As the month of May comes once more, it marks one year of my salvation. I was saved near the end of April, and baptized at the beginning of May (on Mother's Day). God pulled me from a great pit, and I am very thankful.

My mother recently asked, "Why didn't you wait until you were older before you got 'religious'?" At that moment I didn't have a ready answer, but afterward I thought of many reasons. I thought of the peace which has replaced the inner turmoil; the security of resting in Jesus as compared to the uncertainties of this world; and of a clean heart washed by the blood of Jesus compared to the old sin-darkened one. I wondered, "Why did I wait so long?" Besides, there is no guarantee that I would be around to become "religious" when older!

I'm thankful that "When God created man, He purposely made his shoulders too narrow to bear the burdens of life alone, and his wisdom too limited to know of himself what way he should take. God intended that men should be dependent upon Him. . . . He made a place in their hearts that He alone can fill, and created a longing there that only His indwelling presence can satisfy." (page 19, Russell Byrum's *Holy Spirit Baptism, and the Second Cleansing*.) How the devil likes to deceive people into filling that yearning and longing with a desire and lust for the things and pleasures of this world! The slogans, "Do your own thing," "Be good to yourself," etc., are just part of Satan's disguise covering the road to hell. Thank God for a salvation that fully saves, and fully satisfies. Nothing I came across in this old world filled the "holy vacuum" like Jesus has.

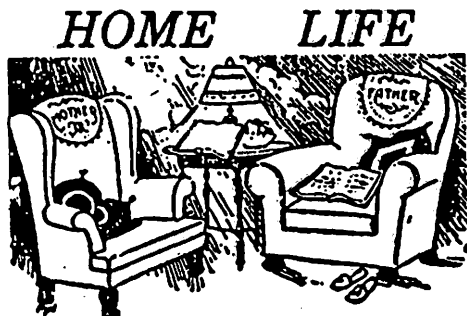
I'm also thankful for the saints of God who were burdened with prayer and fasting for my salvation. Many continued to support and encourage me as I struggled through my first year as a Christian. I appreciate the fellowship of the saints and their stand for old-time Bible truth. There are many I'd like to see saved, including my husband, and others. Please pray that I will be an example, steadfast in the faith.

—Phyllis Mader

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"If we view trouble with a healthy perspective, it will serve as an adept 'teacher' in our lives. This can only come about as we maintain a quiet rest and confidence in God. If we take things into our own hands, and leave God out of our problems and adversities, we will surely make a mess of things and will profit little from the things that we pass through."

—Wayne Murphey



Christian Instruction in Home Life

By George Hammond
(Continued from last issue)

The Duty of Parents to Their Children

Most parents believe that they love their children, but Christian love toward their children may be more than they understand. Some parents feel: "I want to give my child more than I had when I was young." This, of course, is thinking only of their physical welfare when the Bible says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

Others may become provoked at their children and yell harshly at them or call them ugly names or threaten them with severe punishment. This is not showing the love of God toward our children. We need to be firm but fair, and discipline them in love when needed. If we truly love the children with God's love, we will be very careful with our real concern for them, and deeply desire their submission to Christ as their Savior, and not leave it to the Church or chance to bring them to the Lord.

Parents should rule their children well and have them in subjection with all gravity even as the elders and deacons of the Church are commanded. If we allow our children to attend shows, watch television, go to parties, dances, etc., then surely our prayers for their salvation will not be heard. The eternal destiny of the child is placed in parents' hands, and will surely be brought into account on the Judgment Day of how they fulfilled this responsibility to God and their children. Parents, get your souls saved and filled with the Holy Spirit so you can be holy examples before your children.

Another sad situation in the family today is the breakup or separation at meal time. It seems that many homes never experience the warmth of a family gathered around the table and thanksgiving made to God, enjoying the fellowship of the family while eating. This is the only opportunity that some families have of fellowshiping together and talking over the experiences of the day, or the thoughts upon their hearts. It is sad to say that in many homes the dinner is left on the stove and each one takes what he wills and goes to some part of the house to eat alone or in front of a television where there is no family communication.

True Christian love of parents to their children is to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. We must teach them to fear the Lord and to obey and practice God's Word. "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them [the Word or commandments of God] when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deut. 11:19.

Parents must tell their children of the judgments of God. "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation." Joel 1:3. They are to know the "goodness and severity of God." Rom. 11:22.

The Duty of Children to Their Parents

It is the duty of the parents to teach their children, and it is also the children's duty to honor their parents and heed their teachings. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise." Eph. 6:1, 2. "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Col. 3:20.

Children, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . ." Eccl. 12:1, and this will guide you into a good relationship in your home and in the world, and prepare you for heaven. Eccl. 12:13, 14, says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

"Honour thy father and mother" is not only for when children are young, but also when the parents get old and need the children's attention. Too many are left to the care of others and live out their last years in loneliness away from their loved ones, or are left to become wards of the state. The disciples appointed elders to take care of the widows, and in 1 Tim. 5:4, Paul said, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God." If we have had a warm home life with the children, it isn't hard for children to fulfill this Word when the time comes. ■

[Those who desire a copy of the article printed in the "Home Life" column for the last three months, may receive one by sending 20¢ and their request for the tract entitled, *Christian Instruction in Home Life* to this address.

In the June issue of this paper, we hope to print a "Home Life" article by Sis. Jeanie Samons in which she describes the training she received as a child. Watch for it. If you have an experience or some good advice to share (that pertains to home life), we will be glad to hear from you. —Wayne Murphey]

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: In Judges 11:29-40, we have the account of a vow that Jephthah made to God; my question has to do with how he performed this vow. Did he actually put his daughter to death, or was she dedicated to the service of the Lord for life?

Answer: I may be in over my head in regard to this question and may only be able to add little if anything to the questioner or to any reader out there. There are notable Bible scholars and commentators on both sides of this question. Adam Clarke and Matthew Henry (both notable commentators) both have rather lengthy comments in their commentaries at this place, and they do not agree on it. And each of them quotes from notable Bible scholars who do not altogether agree with them. I am sure there will be people among my readers on both sides of the questions, so I am certain that I will not be able to answer it to everybody's thinking; however, I will do my best to set forth my thinking and why. I will have to confess that I have had to revise my own thinking some in regard to this since I have been looking diligently into it which I never did before.

The first thing I encountered in my research which crossed my own original thinking at this place was that God strictly forbade human sacrifices of this nature. Lev. 18:21, says, "And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, . . . I am the Lord." "Pass through the fire" is a term applying to a burnt offering which Jephthah vowed to do (Judges 11:31). This was strictly forbidden by God. Deut. 12:31, says, "Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods." Deut. 18:10, says, "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire . . ." 2 Kings 17:17, 18, says, "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, . . . and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord. Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel . . ." This was actually Israel that did this in their practice of idolatry. Human sacrifices of this nature were strictly an idolatrous and heathenish practice. Read also 2 Kings 23:10; 2 Chron. 33:6; Jer. 7:31; 32:35; Ezek. 20:26, 31, all of which reiterate the same denunciation of this practice.

2 Kings 3:27, gives an account of where the king of Moab lost a battle with the Israelites, took his eldest son and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall. And it says "there was great indignation against Israel" (meaning the Israelites were filled with great indignation at this thing.) Another translation says, "Then he took his oldest son, . . . and to the horror of the Israeli army, killed him and sacrificed him as a burnt offering upon the wall. So the army of Israel turned back in disgust to their own

land." It horrified and disgusted them because they were not accustomed to any such practice. It was forbidden among them.

God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham went forward to do this thing, but God stopped him and would not allow it to be done. When God saw that Abraham feared Him and would obey Him even to that extent, He stepped in and intervened in the matter, stopped the procedure, and would not allow it to go through. It seems reasonable to me to conclude that if Jephthah would have gone forward to slay his daughter and offer her as a burnt offering, God would have interrupted and not allowed it to be done because it would be directly opposed to His own nature and will, and also a direct violation of His strict command.

In regard to Judges 11:31, where Jephthah's vow is actually spelled out thus: "Then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering," Adam Clarke says in his commentary that the translation according to the most accurate Hebrew scholars is this: "I will consecrate it to the Lord, or I will offer it for a burnt offering." That is, if it be a thing fit for a burnt offering, it shall be made one; if fit for the service of God, it shall be consecrated to Him.

Adam Clarke further says, "From verse 39 it appears evident that Jephthah's daughter was not sacrificed to God, but consecrated to Him in a state of perpetual virginity; for the text says, 'she knew no man,' for this was a statute in Israel, that persons thus dedicated or consecrated to God, should live in a state of unchangeable celibacy."

I think this way, too. Verses 37-39 seem to answer this question this way to me. It is difficult maybe for us in our day to understand the sorrow and trouble to a Hebrew woman in that time if she were not married and had no children. It was a stigma on them as well. That is why Jephthah's daughter bewailed her virginity. But why all that if she were going to be killed and offered as a burnt offering? That would have been no item in such a case. She seemed to have a clear understanding that she was being consecrated to God in a state of perpetual virginity and unchangeable celibacy, and that she could never be married nor have any children; she bewailed that.

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Praise God in every prayer,
Extol Him to the skies,
With every breath we give Him thanks,
Our voices to Him rise!

Tell God in every prayer,
You love Him more than ever,
Tell Him how very great He is,
His goodness faileth never!

Tell God we thank Him for His love,
For His grace and compassion, too,
We praise Him to the uttermost,
To Him ALL thanks are due!

—Edward M. Brandt

Close to God



What is it like being close to God? It's closer than husband, wife, children, friends, and the world. It is seeing the needs of others before our own. It's learning and having a devotional attitude that will carry us through each day—all day. It is being a victor in every temptation.

We can't give in to feelings of hatred, envy, depression, exaltation, or hurt even if we think we have justification [or a reason] for these feelings. It is forgiving before we are asked.

We must learn to deny ourselves on every line. Our comforts, desires, and sometimes our very needs must be laid aside in order to be close to our Lord. Any form of personal gratification must be laid aside. It may be eating, drinking, reading, or participation in some worldly pursuit that satisfies some inner need we think we have. Very often it is a need we have carried over from our past life. To be close to God we must let Him fill these needs.

Being close to God is having our goals and accomplishments fulfilled in Him. It's having every day, hour, and minute given willingly to the Lord's service first.

We must work at being close to God. It is not something we can lay aside when we are busy, sick, or have company. In fact, at these times we must work even harder.

Being close to God is happiness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. It's having everything we need, and some things we desire.

Living close to God is carrying on a love affair with God that never grows old. —Sis. Sheri Rich

Are You Crippled?



I've been thinking lately about an army. When men of war begin to look for someone to serve in the armed forces, they look for men who are strong, valiant, vigorous, and healthy. The men are given an examination, and if there are any deformities, diseases, or if they are crippled in any way, they are rejected and sent back home. Why? Because they want someone who is able to give good service and perform their duties.

The Lord wants the best from us also. He desires that we be strong, clothed with the whole armor of salvation, casting down imaginations. We are instructed to "endure hardness as a good soldier." The Lord doesn't want us to be all crippled up with doubt, fear, and feelings, or to be a coward. He desires that we keep an active faith—a living faith that knows no denial. Let us ask ourselves these questions: Am I crippled up in my experience with doubts, fears, feelings, and attitudes that are disturbing my peace? Is my faith crippled because of symptoms, pain, and looking at the condition? Is our walk crippled by dragging and holding on to the world, or because we cannot prosper as we want to? "Love not the world,

neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. We must give the world up lest we be crippled and wonder where our strength and power are with God. These above mentioned things can cause deformities and cripple us so that we are unable to live as strong soldiers—we cannot grow in strength. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2.

—Malinda Flynn

Which Church is Right?

by E. M. Zinn

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." "My church" indicates sole possession. The thought naturally comes to the minds of those not enlightened, what church did He mean? or which did He build? Was it a church comparable with the rest of the churches? or is it one of a separate, distinct body of heavenly origin in which all its members have salvation?

The fact that Jesus said, "I will build my church," definitely shows that He was the builder and organizer, and man had no part in the organization only as men were divinely guided by the Spirit of God.

The popular opinion among sectarians is, the Church of God is a church among the rest and on par with them and like them in formality and association. Jesus said in St. John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." We go through the door (Christ), which is the only process by which we obtain salvation and membership in His Church.

Different bodies call themselves churches of God. Some have a name to live and are dead; others have had light and in reality were a member of Christ's body or Church, but have departed from the truths that made it the Church of God, and have substituted man's wisdom, and are now a church among the rest, with the Biblical name only as a marked difference to designate her. The Prophet Isaiah said, "In that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." Isa. 4:1. Church of God name has become popular to most Bible students, but to see the exclusive body is quite another thing. Some have the idea that all sectism comprise the Church that Jesus built, and if you so recognize them as a part, you can have access to their pulpits, but no Holy Ghost minister can do so.

Jesus never built a sect. He is the Head of His Church, His body. Men are the heads of their churches that they build. For instance, the Lutheran Church was founded on the teaching of Martin Luther; John Wesley's teaching became the Methodist Church from

the methods he taught. All the sectarian churches combined do not teach all the truth. They individually teach some truth, but omit much truth. Any joinable church does have good and bad in its membership. The Church of God contains nothing but saved men and women. I will admit there are a few saved people in the different bodies, but the clarion call, "Come out of her, my people" sounds out through the voice of inspiration to those who have any degree of light and spirituality. The Psalmist declared, "Of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her [Church of God]; and the highest himself shall establish her." Psa. 87:5. The class book is kept in heaven where it is secure. The wise man said, "She is the only one of her mother," Song of Sol. 6:9. Therefore, the Church of God has no sisters (sect churches), no relation outside of her walls. She carries the true nature of her head, being born of His Spirit, having His divine nature. Her members are raised up together and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Paul described this Church as being a glorious Church not having a spot or wrinkle, but that it should be holy, and without blemish. Jesus also prayed in St. John 17:22, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." Jesus had great joy in seeing His children one. One of the most glorious churches is where the members all see eye to eye and all flow together. There the fellowship runs from heart to heart. There is no joy that equals that sublime, glorious unity brought about by the Spirit of God. It is joy unspeakable and full of glory. One divine taste forever spoils one for those dry meetings down in dark Babylon.

The Psalmist declared that Mt. Zion (Church of God) was beautiful for situation (Psa. 48:2), the joy of the whole earth. With the Holy Spirit in each heart, divine love flowing out toward each one, why wouldn't it be a place of divine satisfaction? Not a jar or discord to mar the feeling of deep settled peace, love that you can feel, love that has that sweet uplift, makes one feel like he is walking on thin air. You know that God is love, and love comes in the heart, a product from the portals of heaven; and with it there comes a power, a drawing toward the place from which it comes. This alienates our affections from things of an earthly nature, we are crucified to earth and the earth to us.

The Revelator beholding these things which had been, and that which is yet to come, saw in that Revelation that Babylon was fallen and said, "Is [present tense] become the habitation of devils, and a hold of every foul spirit, and a cage [sect church] of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. These things he saw, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [man-made churches], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4. There will be a time when no one will get saved in sectism (which is Babylon, meaning confusion). Now, you ask me why I make that statement. I shall go to the Word of God for an answer. Turn to the book of Revelation and read 18:22,

23. "And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; and the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom [Spirit of God] and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee; for thy merchants [ecclesiastical heads] were the great men [D.D.'s and L.L.D.'s] of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived." When millstones are heard no more, food is not produced; there is nothing to live on spiritually, and the results are spiritual death; hence, He calls His children out. Also, when even a candle light (spiritually) shall shine no more there, surely it must be dark. The prophet saw the conditions when he pictured it out as a habitation of dragons and a court for owls (Isa. 34:13). All hunt their prey in the dark. Think about souls staying in such a place trying to keep saved—an impossibility!

My heart aches when I think of the condition of souls in these cages (sects) groping in darkness; perhaps honest, but do not know that God has a pure Church, a city set on a hill illuminated with the light from heaven with no darkness in her. There the true character of Jesus is reflected through men and women whose hearts are filled with that divine nature (love), walking in all the light, each having fellowship with God and with each other—sublime and heavenly! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor. 2:9, 10.

You say the Church of God is organized? Yes, most surely so. Jesus said He would build His Church and furnish with organs to run it on His plans. Jesus furnishes all the necessary organs such as "apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers." Eph. 4:11. These all work under divine instructions so that there are no frictions. Is not this a divine organization?

The different sectarian churches are organized through human wisdom; hence, no two of them are alike because human wisdom without the Holy Spirit can never come to a glorious unity such as Jesus prayed for.

I have set before you some Biblical truths so that you may measure them to churches that are in existence today; and I trust you may lay aside all preconceived ideas or traditions and decide which one is built on the rock Christ Jesus. Jesus has a Church that comes up to the Bible standard, which you can find if you keep an honest heart before God and diligently seek for it.

[This article is available in tract form from this office. —Editor]

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"Life's greatest tragedy is to lose God and not know it."
—Sel. by Effie Miller